

Borough



of Oldbury

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

For the Year 1949.

Medical Officer of Health:

EUGENE V. CONNOLLY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., L.M.,
D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

EDGAR HARROLD, F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

OLDBURY:

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BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, J.P., C.C., *Chairman*.
ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., *Vice-Chairman*.
ALDERMAN J. F. GOODE, J.P., COUNCILLOR A. GUNN.
C.C. „ W. H. HUNTER.
„ G. W. ROSE, J.P. „ MRS. R. SMALLWOOD,
COUNCILLOR J.P.
MISS W. GALLAGHER „ F. W. THOMPSON.
„ MRS. M. E. GARRATT, „ J. B. VARLEY.
J.P.

OLDBURY AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

County Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN J. W. BRIGHT, J.P.
ALDERMAN SIR HUGH CHANCE.
ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, J.P., *Chairman*.
ALDERMAN SIR A. CHAD WOODWARD, D.O., J.P.
COUNCILLOR H. PARKES, J.P.
COUNCILLOR B. H. TARR.

Oldbury Borough Council representatives:

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.
ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., *Vice-Chairman*.
ALDERMAN G. W. ROSE, J.P.
COUNCILLOR A. GUNN.
COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. J. GUNN, J.P.
COUNCILLOR W. HAYES, C.C.

Co-opted Members:

DR. W. H. SHILVOCK (representing Oldbury Nursing
Association).
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. GARRATT, J.P. (representing the
Committee for Education for Oldbury).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

EUGENE V. CONNOLLY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
L.M., D.C.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

C. D. ROSENWALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Resigned 28-2-49).

J. MACLACHLAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Commenced 14-4-49).

Assistant Medical Officer:

PEARL E. FREEMAN, M.B., Ch.B.

Dental Surgeon:

MRS. M. J. BOND, L.D.S.
(Resigned 31.12.49).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

EDGAR HARROLD, F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C. (a.b.)

Ophthalmic Specialist (*part time*):

JANE PARKER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Senior Health Visitor—School Nurse:

MISS P. M. SMITH (c.d.e.)
(Resigned 31.10.49).

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

MISS H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e.) MISS A. L. GADD (c.d.e.)
,, D. H. EDWARDS (c.d.e.) ,, G. N. DAWSON (d.e.)
,, B. M. LAMB (c.d.e.) ,, H. L. GAUNT (d.e.)

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE C. E. HADLEY (d.e.)	NURSE F. M. WESTLAKE (d.)
,, G. N. WILLETTS (d.)	(Resigned 30.6.49).
(Resigned 31-3-49)	,, E. FREESTONE (d.e.)
,, E. McMAHON (d.e.)	(Resigned 18.8.49).
(Resigned 30-6-49)	,, M. M. BISHOP (d.e.)
,, E. ECCLES (d.e.)	,, A. MURTAGH (d.e.)
(Commenced 1-8-49)	(Resigned 30-11-49).
,, H. WINTER (d.e.)	,, E. M. J. DODSON (d.e.)
(Commenced 1-8-49)	(Commenced 16-8-49).
,, A. L. WILLIAMS (d.)	,, E. M. GIBBONS (d.e.)
(Commenced 1-8-49)	(Commenced 16-8-49).

District Nurses:

MISS E. G. WELBROCK, (a.e.f.) MISS E. ANDREWS (g)
MISS E. GANNON (e) MRS. L. I. BAKER (g)

Sanitary Inspectors:

Chief—EDGAR HARROLD, F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C. (a.b.h.)
Deputy Chief—W. J. MASON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (a.b.).
Additional—F. J. ANDREWS, M.S.I.A. (a.b.)
F. W. KEENE (a.)
D. PARTRIDGE (a).

Clerical Staff:

Health:

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY
Senior Clerk—T. K. BOSTON
MISS N. B. RICKETTS.
(Retired 20-4-49).
MRS. S. M. WESTWOOD
(Part-time)
MISS A. E. SMITH
,, E. A. MORGAN
(Commenced 22-8-49).
,, M. D. LEESE
(Resigned 31-1-49).
,, I. D. BUTLER
(Resigned 26-6-49).
(Part-time)
,, B. TUCKER
(Resigned 20-8-49).
,, J. SMALLWOOD
,, T. GARNER
,, O. COX
(Commenced 16-5-49).

Sanitary:

Chief Clerk—J. S. KNIGHT
(Resigned 27-8-49).
W. H. POULTNEY
(From 1-9-49).
J. D. FORSBROOK
(H.M. Forces).
F. W. HACKETT
(Commenced 28-2-49).
J. A. JEAVONS
(Commenced 12.9.49).

NOTES.

- (a) Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Board.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
- (e) Trained Nurse.
- (f) Holds the Midwives Teachers' Diploma.
- (g) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (h) Diploma of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1949.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Oldbury.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the health activities of the Borough for the year, 1949.

The increase in the notifications of Tuberculosis is disquieting, and this disease still remains one of our most challenging public health problems. Unfortunately, the presence of infection is unsuspected in many cases and on an average three months elapse between the commencement of the illness and when the patient first sees a doctor, so that there is ample time for the spread of infection in the patient's home and to his associates at work. Adult sufferers of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, who are often old, appear healthy and are invariably labelled as bronchitic, are the greatest danger in the spread of this disease, which has its greatest incidence roughly in the 15-30 years age group and of the deaths in the Borough during the year eight occurred in this group. The present housing shortage favours overcrowding with a consequent increase in the number of contacts, so that adequate housing for all is an essential. An increase in the number of beds in Sanatoria for efficient treatment and isolation is very desirable and this can

only be accomplished by increasing the Country's nursing personnel. Further development of mass radiography, elimination of Tuberculosis from dairy herds, pasteurisation of all milk, and protection of the healthy, particularly children, by B.C.G. vaccination which is at present undergoing trial in this Country, are other factors of importance in the stamping out of this preventable social evil.

We are glad to see a reduction once more in the infantile mortality rate but our figure of 34.12 is far from satisfactory and is higher than that for England and Wales which has shown a steady decrease for a number of years. The general decline can be largely attributed to a reduction in deaths caused by infections, but social conditions also have a profound effect on the infant's health, and the need for a higher standard of cleanliness and education in matters relating to the infant is not always appreciated, particularly by the poorer mothers in the Borough, many of whom have to overcome the additional handicap of poor housing. Every expectant mother needs a home of her own where she can carry out her daily duties unhampered. We need to enlarge our maternity institutional accommodation which is at present inadequate for the increased demand made upon it since the advent of the National Health Service Act, and we look forward to a favourable decision from the Regional Hospital Board for the building of the Barlow Maternity Home in the Borough.

Our problem families are still with us and no appreciable improvement has taken place in this sphere since the last Annual Report. Recruitment of voluntary social workers has not materialised and no offers of assistance from such bodies have been received by the Department for this important work. The solution to the problem is not an easy one and apart from social workers the only hope for the future would appear to be in educating the children. These children need education in the accomplishments which help to build up a home and also character training which might usefully be obtained by joining various youth organisations. Many of the children from these families marry at a relatively early age, and the marriage of minors might usefully be made subject to the consent of a magistrate in addition to that of the parents.

Lack of hospital accommodation for the aged sick is becoming a serious local problem as Old People are increasing in our population due to a low birth rate associated with a low death rate, which means that there is a dwindling reinforcement to the population as a whole and an adverse change in the age structure, causing many new social problems. Young adults will have to support a larger number of old people and unless the birth-rate rises, will have to contribute more and more each year to the support of the aged. The infirm and old will have fewer young people to look after them and this problem is aggravated by the fact that many young women are now earning their living which further depletes the number available for looking after the aged. The present changing age structure is bound to cause a diminution in the number of young workers available to industry and a consequent increase in the employment of women. Married women contemplating employment will be forced to choose between industrial work and rearing a family, a major decision to industry and to the Country as a whole with a declining fertility. The problem of the care and support of the aged is therefore bound to become even more serious as time goes on. More geriatric units are needed and more doctors and staff specially trained in this work. For the present these patients will have to be accommodated in the wards of a general hospital for investigation and treatment, but hostels for the accommodation of ambulant cases to prevent overloading of hospital beds would be very helpful in alleviating the problem.

Atmospheric pollution and a particularly unsavoury odour caused much anxiety to the Department during the year. The amount of injury to health as a result is difficult to assess, but the smoke, acid and grit caused by incomplete combustion undoubtedly predisposes to catarrh and more serious respiratory conditions. We are inclined to attach too much blame to the factory chimney in this problem as the domestic chimney is also one of the chief culprits. Prejudice against smokeless fuels for domestic use must be removed and many old fashioned fireplaces need replacing, also it is important that only the latest types of firegrate should be installed in new houses. Education of the public in the importance of the problem both from a social and health point of view is an essential part of the campaign.

Our immunisation figures have been well maintained during the year, but a marked decline in the vaccination of infants has become noticeable since the advent of the National Health Service Act when the Vaccination Acts were repealed and vaccination ceased to be compulsory. Importations of Smallpox have been too numerous since the war ended, and how far this disease can again become endemic we do not know. Its re-appearance in the Country should be viewed with apprehension, and the only efficient method of prevention is by vaccination which is best carried out between two and six months of age when it causes little, if any, disturbance to the infant.

The problem of accidents in the home as a cause of mortality is now assuming the prominence it deserves in the press and elsewhere, and the number of such accidents appears to be increasing. The non-fatal cases requiring medical treatment are appreciable and it is alarming when one thinks that more children die each year from accidents in their homes than from any single infectious disease, and more are killed in this way than in road accidents. Many of these accidents are preventable and are due to carelessness and errors of judgment. Overcrowding in the home is at present an important cause, particularly where there are many children. The majority of mishaps to the elderly are caused by falls due, in many cases, to poor hearing, sight and giddiness, while burns and scalds are the chief injuries to children. Falls can be minimised by the provision of adequate lighting, non-slipping floor surfaces and suitable handrails. Unprotected coal, gas and electric fires are the main causes of burns, and kettles and saucepans with boiling water of scalds. Education of the public, particularly school children, is very important in accident prevention and we are glad to see our health visitors taking a particular interest in this matter.

The waiting list for the day nursery during the year was so large that a rigid system of priorities had to be introduced. It would appear that there is little place for encouraging the employment of mothers of young children, especially where the children are under two years of age, and the need for women in industry should be met in most cases by the provision of nurseries in the factories, allowing places in the local authorities' nurseries to priority and short term cases.

In conclusion I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council, particularly to the Chairman of the Health Committee, for their co-operation and assistance during the year, to the medical, dental and clerical staffs of the Health Department without whose support this Report would have been impossible, to the officers of the various departments for their ready support and excellent co-operation at all times, and to all those who have helped in any way in compiling this short account of the health of the people of Oldbury, which can be summed up as generally satisfactory when all the circumstances have been taken into consideration.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EUGENE V. CONNOLLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Greenwood Avenue,
Langley, Oldbury.
July, 1950.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation	Sessions	Accommodation
Oldbury I.W.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, I n f a n t Weighing and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley I.W.	“ The Hollies,” Langley	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Oldbury A.N.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Friday, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley A.N.	“ The Hollies,” Langley	Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, M. and C.W.	Rounds Green, Oldbury	Wednesday and Friday, 4—5-30 p.m.	Treatment, Waiting and Recovery Rooms
Dental Clinic, M. and C.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Monday and Thursday, 4—5-30 p.m.	do.
School Clinic	Rounds Green, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
School Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
School Clinic	“ The Hollies,” Langley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Rounds Green, Oldbury	Wednesday and Friday	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Monday and Thursday	do.
Scabies Clinic	Cleansing Station, Brookfields Rd., Langley	By appointment	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Rounds Green, Oldbury	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Monday, 2 p.m.	do.
E.N.T. Clinic	“ The Hollies,” Langley	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Orthopædic Clinic	“ The Hollies,” Langley	Monday, 2 p.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Sunray Clinic	“ The Hollies,” Langley	Thursday, 10 a.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Messrs. Accles & Pollock Ltd. Solarium	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	T.B. Dispensary, Greenwood Av. Langley	Monday, 2—5-30 p.m.	do.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	3,300
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1949)	53,380
Population (Census 1931)	35,918
Number of inhabited houses	14,372
Rateable Value (1st April, 1949) ...	£222,173 0 0
Sum represented by a penny rate	£860 0 0
General Rate—1948–1949	19 6
Unemployment—31st December, 1949:—	
Men and Boys wholly unemployed ...	29
Women and Girls	19
Temporary stoppage:—	
Men and Boys	7
Women and Girls	1

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

				M.	F.	Total		
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	427	408	835
		Illegitimate	...	...	24	20	44
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
					451	428	879	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Birth-rate per 1000 of the population			...	...			16.46
Stillbirths	...	...	17	Rate per 1,000 total births			18.97
Deaths	535	Death-rate			...	10.02
Area Comparability-Factor			1.31	Standardised Death-rate			13.126	
					Rate per 1000 Births			
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth was 2					(Live and Still)			
					2.23			
Death-rates of Infants under one year:—								
All Infants per 1000 live births			...	...	(30)	34.12	
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate live births					(29)	34.73		
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births					(1)	68.18		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			...	...	...	93	
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)			...	...	...	28	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			...	...	...	2	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	...	...	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			...	...	...	4	

3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

				Birth Rates		Death Rate
				Live Birth	Stillbirth	
England and Wales	...	...	...	16.7	0.39	11.7
126 County Boroughs, and Great Towns, including London	...	...	...	18.7	0.47	12.5
148 Smaller Towns, population 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census)	...	...	...	18.0	0.40	11.6
London Administrative County...	...	...	...	18.5	0.37	12.2
OLDBURY	...	...	...	16.46	0.21	10.02

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates that 53,380 persons were resident in the Oldbury area at Midsummer, 1949. The “natural increase of population,” that is excess of births over deaths, during the year was 344.

DEATHS.

In 1949, 348 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. Nine of these deaths were of persons not normally resident in the district, and 196 Oldbury residents died outside the district. The aggregate number of deaths for the year was 535, representing a death rate of 10.02 per thousand of the estimated population. The corresponding figures for 1948 were 475 total deaths and a death rate of 8.90.

Of the 535 deaths, 30 were of infants under one year of age, representing an infantile mortality rate of 34.12 per thousand live births. In 1948 there were 38 deaths under one year of age and an infantile mortality rate of 41.34 per thousand live births.

The most frequent causes of deaths, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand of the population were:—

Heart Disease	144	deaths	equivalent	to	a	death	rate	of	2.69
Cancer	93	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	1.74
Intra-Cranial									
Vascular Lesions	58	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	1.08
Bronchitis	36	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	0.67
Pneumonia	32	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	0.59
Tuberculosis	28	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	0.52

Heart Disease occupies first place as primary cause of death.

HEART DISEASE.

Of the 144 deaths recorded as due to heart diseases, 101 relate to persons over the age of 65 and only 6 were in respect of persons under 45 years of age.

CANCER.

For the purposes of comparison the following table gives a summary of the deaths from Cancer, and the age distribution of those deaths during the past eight years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		5-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45 65 Years	65 years & over
1942	49,530	30	34	64	1.29	1	...	4	21	38
1943	50,100	48	32	80	1.59	...	...	10	25	45
1944	50,220	32	33	65	1.29	1	1	7	23	33
1945	50,040	42	27	69	1.37		...	6	29	33
1946	51,890	47	38	85	1.63	..	1	2	32	50
1947	52,510	62	40	102	1.94	...	...	10	34	58
1948	53,350	42	41	83	1.55	...	...	11	36	36
1949	53,380	45	48	93	1.74	...	...	5	43	45

An analysis of the deaths from malignant disease shows that the site of the cancer causing death was as follows:—

Site	Male			Female		
	No.	Age Range	Average Age	No.	Age Range	Average Age
1. Carcinoma of Intestinal Tract:						
a. Buccal Cavity	6	57-79	70	—	—	—
b. Oesophagus	...	—	—	1	62	62
c. Stomach	... 9	60-77	66	9	48-81	67
d. Liver	... 1	58	58	1	70	70
e. Kidney	... —	—	—	1	61	61
f. Pancreas	... 1	54	54	1	71	71
g. Colon	... 2	62-73	67	3	54-83	71
h. Rectum	... 4	64-76	69	8	37-86	64
i. Caecum	... 1	60	60	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Four of the 32 deaths from tuberculosis were non-pulmonary. The following table shows the sex and age groups in which the 28 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1949. For comparison the table includes the corresponding figures since 1939.

Year	Total	Death Rate	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1939	28	.55	Male	17	1	1	3	4	2	6
			Female	11	...	6	2	2	1	..
1940	39	.77	Male	27	...	4	8	5	5	6
			Female	12	...	6	1	3	1	...
1941	30	.59	Male	17	...	...	6	1	3	7
			Female	13	2	4	2	3	...	2
1942	34	.67	Male	22	...	5	3	4	7	3
			Female	12	...	6	1	5	...	...
1943	42	.83	Male	25	...	3	7	6	7	2
			Female	17	2	7	4	2	1	1
1944	26	.52	Male	13	...	1	4	1	3	4
			Female	13	1	3	1	4	1	3
1945	26	.52	Male	16	...	...	4	2	3	7
			Female	10	...	3	3	2	2	...
1946	38	.73	Male	23	1	2	7	4	2	7
			Female	15	2	2	5	1	2	3
1947	27	.51	Male	20	...	4	4	5	2	5
			Female	7	...	1	3	3	...	...
1948	15	.28	Male	8	...	3	...	1	4	...
			Female	7	...	2	2	3	...	...
1949	28	.52	Male	16	1	2	1	6	3	3
			Female	12	...	5	1	2	1	3

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Housing.

Increased housing accommodation is still an urgent necessity in the Borough. Re-housing of tuberculosis cases continues to have top priority and it is pleasing to record that an appreciable number of cases of overcrowding were again given favourable consideration during the year.

The Housing Manager informs me that he received 566 new applications during the year, divisible into the following groups.—

303	with no children
158	with 1 child
65	with 2 children
23	with 3 children
11	with 4 children
4	with 5 children
1	with 6 children
1	with 9 children

Total applications on Housing Register at 31-12-49 were:—

Sub-Tenants	...	...	...	...	1,970
Tenants	...	...	...	.....	534

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following figures:—

Number of permanent houses completed by Corporation	...	104
Number of houses completed by private contractors	... ..	33
Number of Municipal houses in course of erection at 31-12-49		59

Water Supply.

133 houses in the area are supplied with water from the mains to standpipes or taps in yards serving two or more houses. The approximate population so served is 479. The remaining houses and population in the area received water from mains direct to individual houses.

Specimen results of analysis by the County Analyst are as follows:—

					Zone 1.	Zone 2.	Zone 3.
Physical Characters	...	...	...	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	...	...	...	...	None	None	None
Deposit	...	...	...	...	None	None	None
pH.	...	...	...	...	8.1	8.1	7.8

Chemical Examination.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	None	None	None
Solids in solution (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	26	39	19
Solids in solution. After ignition	...	...	...	21	32	16
Chlorides calculated as common salt	...	...	...	8.2	5.5	6
Hardness, permanent	...	...	...	5	12	5
Hardness, temporary	...	...	...	13	15	8
Hardness, total	...	...	...	18	27	13
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.002	0.002	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.005	0.007	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	Trace	0.3	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	0.013	None	None
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected	None detected	None detected
Free Chlorine on receipt	...	...	...	0.003	0.003	0.002

Note:—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar:—

(a) In two days at 37°C....	Nil per one m.l.	2 per one m.l.	Nil per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C....	8 per one m.l.	3 per one m.l.	5 per one m.l.

Coli-ærogenes (presumptive coli)						
count	...	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.
Opinion	...	...	...	Fit for drinking	Fit for drinking	Fit for drinking

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

Table IV summarising the work of Immunisation will be found at the end of the Report.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during 1949 was 10, all cases were removed to hospital and there was one death. These figures compare with 6 notified cases and no deaths in 1948 and compare very favourably with the figures for previous years.

During the year 150,000 units of Diphtheria anti-toxin were supplied to Medical Practitioners as compared with 200,000 units in 1948.

In all 1,021 children were immunised in 1949, 905 were under five years of age and 116 were between 5 and 15 years of age. The percentage of the estimated child population immunised at 31st December, 1949, is 51.61 under 5 years, and 90.24 between 5 and 15 years.

Scarlet Fever.

127 cases were notified compared with 131 in 1948. The disease in the main was mild in character and of relatively little significance. Only complicated cases were admitted to Hospital, 8 in 1949, compared with 13 in 1948.

Pneumonia.

54 cases notified, 4 cases removed to hospital and 32 deaths reported during the year.

Influenza.

Eight deaths in 1949 compared with 1 in 1948.

Erysipelas.

12 cases were notified during the year as compared with 14 during 1948.

Measles.

The total number of cases was 948 and 2 deaths occurred. In spite of health education the public still fail to realise that Measles is a dangerous disease especially when the child is under five years of age. During an epidemic, parents could reduce the risk of infection by prohibiting their children going to crowded places such

as cinemas, keeping up the child's resistance by regular sleep, regular meals and warm clothing. The longer a child escapes Measles the less the danger and every effort should be made to keep other children away from the infected child.

Whooping Cough.

92 cases of Whooping Cough were notified and there were no deaths.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

No cases were notified.

Infantile Diarrhoea.

Four deaths were recorded from this disease during 1949.

Tuberculosis.

The table below shows the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1938 to 1949.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—New Cases.

Year	Total	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1938	47	Male	26	...	5	8	2	5	6
		Female	21	...	12	3	5	1	...
1939	53	Male	35	2	5	4	12	4	8
		Female	18	1	8	1	6	2	...
1940	51	Male	34	1	7	7	6	6	7
		Female	17	5	8	3	...	...	1
1941	54	Male	32	1	5	6	6	7	7
		Female	22	2	8	7	2	1	2
1942	65	Male	45	2	11	15	7	6	4
		Female	20	...	10	7	2	1	..
1943	77	Male	44	3	7	11	9	10	4
		Female	33	4	13	7	3	4	2
1944	61	Male	37	1	10	10	6	4	6
		Female	24	2	10	4	5	2	1
1945	50	Male	32	1	6	11	7	5	2
		Female	18	2	7	5	3	1	...
1946	81	Male	54	2	19	13	5	10	5
		Female	27	4	11	6	3	2	1
1947	55	Male	32	5	7	3	9	3	5
		Female	23	4	10	2	5	...	2
1948	59	Male	35	4	15	4	6	2	4
		Female	24	6	7	3	3	2	3
1949	65	Male	44	6	7	5	8	7	11
		Female	21	1	6	6	7	1	...

Nine cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (4 males and 5 females) were notified in 1949.

BOROUGH AMBULANCE SERVICE.

During the year 6,417 ordinary cases, 602 accident cases and 209 maternity cases were transported. The total mileage covered was 45,027.

The increased number of routine cases carried is almost entirely due to the fact that fracture cases are now treated to a greater extent as out-patients, originally introduced to meet the shortage of beds.

The accident cases can be divided into:—

266	Road accidents
161	Works „
144	Home „
31	School „

Personnel at the Ambulance Station are on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on call on rota from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The number of cases transported between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year was 6,754 and 474 between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Chief Statistics, 1949.

Registrar General's figures.

Total number of live births during the year ...	...	...	879
Total number of stillbirths during the year ...	...	...	17
Live birth rate 16.46 per thousand population.			
Stillbirth rate 18.97 per thousand live and stillbirths.			
Illegitimate live births represent 5.26 per cent. of the total live births in the area.			
Infant mortality. 30 children died under the age of one year.			
This represents an Infantile Mortality rate of 34.12 per thousand live births.			

Births.

The total of 879 live births is divisible into 451 boys and 428 girls, giving a live birth rate of 16.46 per thousand estimated population.

Of the 879 live births, 44 were illegitimate (24 boys and 20 girls). One illegitimate stillbirth was registered.

The Ward distribution of the births registered in the Borough is shown in the table below. For comparison the figures for the two previous years are given.

	1947		1948		1949
Central Ward ...	102	...	67	...	65
Broadwell Ward ...	58	...	48	...	43
Brandhall Ward ...	61	...	57	...	44
Bristnall Ward ...	99	...	105	...	81
Rounds Green Ward ...	74	...	66	...	41
Langley Ward ...	116	...	92	...	97
Warley Ward ...	204	...	125	...	127
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals ...	714	...	560	...	498
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

It should be noted that the figures for the Warley Ward include births in the Oakdene Nursing Home. Some of these births are to parents resident in other parts of Oldbury and also to parents residing outside the Borough.

Stillbirths.

There were 17 stillbirths registered during 1949 giving a still-birth rate of 18.97 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.31 stillbirths per thousand of the population, as compared with 1948, when the number of stillbirths was 13; the stillbirth rate 13.94 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.24 stillbirths per thousand population.

Illegitimate Births

The Illegitimate Birth Rate shows a rise on the figure for the previous year.

The full figures for the last ten years are as follows:—

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	% of Total Births
1949	44	.824	5.26
1948	30	.562	3.26
1947	36	.685	3.43
1946	53	1.023	5.14
1945	54	1.079	5.21
1944	28	.557	2.52
1943	31	.618	2.73
1942	23	.469	2.24
1941	18	.364	2.08
1940	13	.266	1.37

Premature Births.

Notification of birth cards provides information about babies weighing 5½-lbs. or less at birth.

	Born at home						Born in private Nursing Homes*						
	Trans-ferred to hospital (1)	Nursed entirely at home					Grand Total (7)	Trans-ferred to hospital (8)	Nursed entirely in private nursing home				Grand Total (14)
		Died in first 24 hrs. (2)	Died on 2nd to 7th day (3)	Died on 8th to 28th day (4)	Sur- vived 28 days (5)	Total (6)			Died in first 24 hrs. (9)	Died on 2nd to 7th day (10)	Died on 8th to 28th day (11)	Sur- vived 28 days (12)		Total (13)
Under 3 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4 lbs. ...	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5½ lbs. ...	3	—	—	—	19	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	—	—	—	19	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTE: *Including Maternity Homes not in the National Health Service and Mother and Baby Homes where the women are confined in the Home.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 30 deaths of infants under one year of age and 19 of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. This is equivalent to an Infant Mortality rate of 34.12 per thousand live births.

The corresponding figures for the previous eight years are:—

1941	...	58 deaths	or 70.47	per thousand live births.		
1942	...	46	„	or 46.51	„	„
1943	...	45	„	or 41.02	„	„
1944	...	40	„	or 37.18	„	„
1945	...	34	„	or 33.59	„	„
1946	...	36	„	or 35.89	„	„
1947	...	38	„	or 36.22	„	„
1948	...	38	„	or 41.34	„	„

An analysis of the causes of death of infants will be found in the following table:—

Infant Mortality during the Year 1949.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Prematurity	6	...	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	7
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	4
Gastro-Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Pneumonia	1	...	...	..	1	...	1	...	...	2
Other Respiratory Disease	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2
Spina Bifida ... ..	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Colitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Erythroblastosis Isetalis ...	1	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other Congenital Mal. ...	3	...	2	...	5	...	2	...	...	7
	13	1	3	2	19	3	4	2	2	30

Maternal Mortality.

There were two deaths during 1949, giving a Maternal Mortality rate of 2.23 per 1,000 total births.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified to the Department was 1. Every assistance is given by Hospitals in surrounding areas in dealing with such cases.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified and the vision was unimpaired. The case was treated at the Eye Hospital, Birmingham.

MEDICAL AID.

Medical Aid was required by Midwives on 109 occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of the requests received is set out below:—

Mother.

Torn perineum	...	...	...	37
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	7
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	5
Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3
Miscarriage	...	...	...	3
B.B.A.	...	...	...	2
Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	2
Toxæmia	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	1
High presenting part	...	...	...	1
Inflamed breasts	...	...	...	1
Macerated foetus	...	...	...	1
Obstetric shock	...	...	...	1
Phlebitis	...	...	...	1
Premature labour	...	...	...	1
Quick labour	...	...	...	1
Rigid cervix	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	12
				—
Total				85
				—

Child.

Prematurity	...	...	...	8
Discharging eye	...	...	...	5
Jaundice	...	...	...	2
Mastitis	...	...	...	2
Asphyxia	...	...	...	1
Bilateral talipes	...	...	...	1
Cough	...	...	...	1
Cyanosis	...	...	...	1
Growth on face	...	...	...	1
Septic finger	...	...	...	1
Watery blisters	...	...	...	1
				—
Total				24
				—

Notifications Received from Midwives.

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Sending for medical aid	...	...	109
Attendance at stillbirths	...	...	7
Artificial feeding	...	...	18
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	2
Death of mother and/or child	...	...	2
Laying-out	...	...	nil

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The total number of births notified as having occurred in Hospitals, etc., outside the Borough was 403.

	Living.	Stillborn.
Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich	... 279	8
Poplars Nursing Home, Smethwick	... 39	—
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	... 30	2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Selly Oak	... 5	—
Birmingham General Hospital	... 4	—
St. Chads Hospital	... 6	—
Selly Oak Hospital	... 2	—
Dudley Road Hospital	... 1	—
Lodge Nursing Home, West Bromwich	1	—
Mary Stevens Maternity Home	... 1	—
Edgbaston Maternity Home, Birmingham	6	—
Northfield Maternity Home	... 1	—
Lordswood Maternity Home	... 1	—
Ashleigh Nursing Home, Harborne	... 2	—
Park House Nursing Home, West Bromwich	... 5	—
Malvern Nursing Home, Rowley Regis	6	1
Other private address	... 3	—
Totals	... 392	11

Midwives Act, 1936.

An indication of the work undertaken by the Midwives during the year can be obtained from the following table:—

Confinements as Midwife	... 379
Confinements as Maternity Nurse	... 85
Morning Nursings	... 6,790
Evening Nursings	... 1,698
Ante-Natal Clinics attended	... 150
Ante-Natal Visits	... 1,554
Special Visits	... 626

Gas and Air Analgesia.

This service was made available to all expectant mothers from May and the response, though increasing, is still disappointing, as only 106 cases availed themselves of the opportunity up to the end of the year.

Home Helps.

One home help is available and attended 12 cases. In this area women are more attracted to industrial work and many difficulties are encountered in finding suitable personnel for this scheme.

Work of the Health Visitors.

During the year 12,691 visits were made to homes in the district and 512 sessions were taken up by attendance at Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Centres.

The work undertaken by the Health Visitors can be summarised:—

Primary visits under 12 months	...	828
Revisits under 12 months	... ..	3,335
Visits to children between 1 and 5 years		6,867
Primary visits to expectant mothers	...	149
Revisits to expectant mothers	...	139
Total		<hr/> 11,318 <hr/>

In addition to the figures given above, 51 visits were made for the purpose of child life protection cases and 19 visits for investigation of stillbirths.

The number of ineffective visits during the year was 1,293.

Infant Welfare Centres.

The three centres at Langley, Oldbury and Warley continued to serve the Borough throughout the year. Two sessions per week were held at Langley and Warley, and one session per week at Oldbury.

701 babies under the age of 1 year attended the Centres for the first time. This represents 79.7% of the registered live births. 88 children between the age of 1 and 5 years attended the Centres for the first time during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Centres.

CENTRE	Number of Sessions.		NO. OF ATTENDANCES.				SEEN BY DOCTOR.	
			Under 1.		Over 1			
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
Oldbury ...	48	48	2763	3211	849	828	886	921
Langley ...	103	104	5727	5854	2368	2060	1807	1396
Warley ..	103	100	4002	3976	2376	2306	1701	1303
Totals ..	254	252	12492	13041	5593	5194	4394	3620

The statistics for the Infant Welfare Clinics compare favourably with those of the previous year.

Voluntary Committees.

A Voluntary Committee operates at each Infant Welfare Clinic and they render valuable social and clerical work to the community. Their efforts in maintaining the happy relationship at our clinics and successfully arranging social functions in the form of outings, sales of work and competitions are very much appreciated.

Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the findings of medical inspections during 1949:—

Number of children examined—617.

Found to be of good nutrition A	...	...	497
Found to be of fair nutrition B	...	...	117
Found to be of poor nutrition C	...	...	3
Total	...		617

Defects found and referred for treatment:—

Skin	...	...	...	7	Cervical Glands	...	36
Eye Defect	...	...	...	27	Heart and Circulation	...	—
Nose and Throat	...	...	...	35	Lung Defect	...	9
Ear Defect	...	...	...	14	Developmental	...	5
Defective Speech	...	...	...	—	Orthopædic	...	120
Other Defects and Diseases	3				Nervous System	...	1

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY.		LANGLEY.		WARLEY.		TOTALS	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
Number of Sessions ...	51	52	104	79	52	52	207	183
New Ante-Natal Cases	227	199	311	230	179	148	717	577
Re-visits ...	1244	1095	1668	1270	915	519	3827	2884
Average per Session ...	29	25	19	19	21	13	22	19

The number of 577 new cases is 64.4 per cent. of the total registered births for the district.

Routine blood samples for the investigation of the Rhesus Factor and Wasserman examinations are now taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the results so far obtained undoubtedly justify the continuance of this procedure.

Post-Natal Clinics.

Post-Natal Clinics have been arranged in the Borough and at 6 sessions 59 post-natal cases made 59 attendances. Attendances are, on the whole, disappointing, but this is now largely due to the obligation of Doctors under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to carry out routine post-natal examinations on their Maternity cases.

Milk Assistance Scheme.

There is a scheme in operation whereby free milk is supplied to expectant and nursing mothers and infants up to five years of age who attend the Ante-Natal and Welfare Clinics and for whom a supply of milk is recommended by the Medical Officer. No applications were received during the year.

Dried milk and other foods were sold at the three Welfare Centres to the value of £1,977 10s. 1d.

Dental Treatment of Expectant Mothers.

Numbers Provided with Dental Care

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	89	89	77	65
Children under five	159	152	152	152

Forms of Dental Treatment Provided

	Extrac-tions	Anaesthetics		Fill-ings	Scalings or Scaling and gum treat-ment	Silver Nitrate treat-ment	Dress-ings	Radio-graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	Gen-eral						Com-plete	Par-tial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	387	146	4	33	14	—	7	—	34	28
Children under five	214	139	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Centres noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye conditions are sent to Miss J. Parker Smith, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic.

During 1949, 37 children were examined and analysis of the cases shows the following conditions to have been present:—

Strabismus	...	...	...	...	21
Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	4
Dacryocystitis	...	...	...	...	1
Ptosis	...	...	...	...	1
Optic Atrophy	...	...	...	...	1
Hypermetropia	...	...	...	...	1
No defects found	...	...	...	...	8

MOAT ROAD NURSERY.

	Number of Attendances		Average Attendances	
	Weekday		Weekday	
	Under 2 years	Over 2 years	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
January	117	560	5'57	26'66
February	91	507	4'55	25'35
March	96	503	4'17	21'87
April	44	402	2'32	21'15
May	124	396	5'63	18'00
June	153	365	7'65	18'25
July	179	348	8'52	16'57
August	152	371	7'24	17'66
September	208	572	9'45	26'00
October	202	439	9'62	20'90
November	160	497	7'27	22'59
December	182	423	9'58	22'26
Totals ...	1708	5383	6'80	21'44

TABLE I.—*Corrected Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1949.*

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.												Total Cases Notified in each Ward.						TOTAL	Total cases re- moved to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to the District	
	At Ages—Years.												Central.	Broadwell.	Brandhall.	Rounds Green	Langley.	Warley.				Bristnall.
	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 3.	3 and under 4.	4 and under 5.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards										
Scarlet Fever	2	1	7	11	16	71	9	2	5	3	...	...	8	2	21	3	23	49	21	127	14	...
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	...	4	2	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	4	2	1	1	10	10	1
Whooping Cough	11	11	11	15	14	29	1	..	...	...	...	...	18	6	18	1	22	15	12	92	..	...
Measles	50	105	153	152	164	311	7	2	4	...	...	...	137	122	143	88	147	196	115	948	7	2
Pneumonia	4	1	2	1	3	11	...	2	8	2	12	8	5	4	11	5	4	23	2	54	11	32
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	4	2	...	1	1	...	4	3	3	12	2	...
Dysentry	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	...
TOTALS ...	68	118	174	179	197	430	19	8	21	9	17	10	169	136	196	101	203	288	157	1250	46	35

TABLE III.
Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1949.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.							RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		
	Live Births	Still- births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Tuberculosis	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths under One year
England and Wales	16.7	0.39	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.15	3.0	32
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ...	18.7	0.47	12.5	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.15	3.8	37
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Population 25,000 to 50,000, Census, 1931)	18.0	0.40	11.6	0.00	..	0.42	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.14	2.4	30
London Administrative County	18.5	0.37	12.2	0.00	...	0.52	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.11	1.7	29
Oldbury	16.46	0.21	10.02	0.00	...	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.14	4.5	34

MATERNAL MORTALITY			Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
	England & Wales	Oldbury		
140 Abortion with sepsis	0.11	0.00	
141 Abortion without sepsis	0.05	0.00	
147 Puerperal infections	0.11	0.00	
142-146 & 148-150 Other maternal causes		0.71	2.23	

TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1949.

Registrar General's figures.

CAUSES	TOTAL	SEX.		AGE GROUP.								WARDS.						
		M	F	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
3. Scarlet Fever
4. Whooping Cough
5. Diphtheria	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
6. Tuberculosis, Respiratory,	...	28	16	12	...	...	1	7	10	7	3	5	1	6	4	2	7	3
7. " other forms	...	4	...	4	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
9. Influenza	...	8	6	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	5	...	3	2	...	...	1	2
10. Measles	...	2	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis
12. Ac. infectious encephalitis
13. Cancer—																		
Buccal Cavity and																		
Oesophagus	M.	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	2	1	...	1	2	...	...
Uterus	F.	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1
14. " stomach and duodenum	...	18	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	7	11	3	6	2	...	2	2	3
15. " breast	...	13	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	...	1	4	2	2	2	2
16. " of all other sites	...	52	29	23	...	...	...	...	4	24	24	6	8	10	6	10	5	7
17. Diabetes	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	58	28	30	...	...	...	...	2	12	44	10	10	6	6	13	4	9
19. Heart Disease	...	144	67	77	...	...	1	...	5	37	101	20	28	19	12	25	16	24
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	...	8	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	1	1	1	3	...	2	...
21. Bronchitis	...	36	23	13	...	...	...	...	2	8	26	8	5	5	5	7	3	3
22. Pneumonia	...	32	20	12	2	1	...	1	2	4	22	7	5	...	3	3	7	7
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	6	3	3	2	...	...	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	2	1	...
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	7	6	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	...	2	3	2	...	...
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	4	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
26. Appendicitis	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	8	4	4	2	...	...	...	2	2	2	3	2	3	...	...	...	...
28. Nephritis	...	12	5	7	...	...	1	...	2	4	5	...	1	1	2	1	6	1
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis
30. Other Maternal Causes	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
31. Premature Birth	...	7	4	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	2	...	...
32. Congenital Mal: birth injury: infantile diseases	...	12	7	5	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	1	2	1	1
33. Suicide	...	8	6	2	...	...	...	...	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	...	3	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	7	5	2	...	...	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	...	2	...
35. Other Violence	...	5	4	1	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	2	1	...
36. All Other Causes	...	35	21	14	1	...	1	1	5	4	22	4	8	7	3	7	3	3
TOTALS	...	535	281	254	30	2	4	7	15	47	138	292	84	88	78	57	89	70

			AGE DISTRIBUTION (YEARS)											WARD DISTRIBUTION								
			TOTALS	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
PULMONARY	M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-49 ...	152	—	7	4	7	23	21	29	33	21	6	1	13	12	25	12	33	36	21	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	38		1	1	4	5	2	5	5	6	6	3	6	1	2	2	4	17	6
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	6								3	1		2	1	1			1	1	2
			Restored to Register...	1									1							1		
			Inward Transfers ...	1						1											1	
		Deletions	Died ...	17				1	1	1	2	5	4	1	2	3	1	4		3	4	2
			Recovered ...	—																		
			Diagnosis not confirmed ...	2							1			1						1		1
			Outward Transfers ...	6				1		4		1					1	2	1			2
	No. on Register at 31-12-49 ...	173	—	8	5	9	27	19	31	35	25	10	4	17	12	22	13	34	51	24		
	F E M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-49 ...	122	—	7	8	7	26	26	23	13	8	2	2	10	11	14	17	16	22	32	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	20				1	4	2	6	6	1				3	3	2	2	9	1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	1								1									1	
Restored to Register...			—																1	1		
Inward Transfers ...			3					1		2						1			1	1		
Deletions		Died ...	11					4	3	1	1			2	2		1	4		4		
	Recovered ...	3							1	2				1			1	1				
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	6			2	1	1			1	1				2	1	1	1	2			
	Outward Transfers ...	8				1	2	1	3	1					1	1	1	1	1	3		
No. on Register at 31-12-49 ...	118	—	7	6	6	24	24	26	15	8	2	—	7	12	14	13	16	26	30			
NON PULMONARY	M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-49 ...	42	—	9	8	9	3	4	4	4	1	—	—	6	3	5	6	9	6	7	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	4	1	1	1				1							1			2	1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
			Inward Transfers ...	—																		
		Deletions	Died ...	—																		
			Recovered ...	2				2											1		1	
			Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
			Outward Transfers ...	1				1								1						
	No. on Register at 31-12-49 ...	43	1	10	9	6	3	4	5	4	1	—	—	5	3	6	5	9	7	8		
	F E M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-49 ...	33	—	6	7	3	1	6	3	3	2	2	—	3	4	9	1	5	7	4	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	5		2		1		1	1					1				3		1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
Restored to Register...			—																			
Inward Transfers ...			—																			
Deletions		Died ...	4		3						1				1	1	1		1			
	Recovered ...	3			2			1											2	1		
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																				
	Outward Transfers ...	1							1							1						
No. on Register at 31-12-49 ...	30	—	5	5	4	1	6	3	2	2	2	—	3	3	7	1	7	5	4			

AGE DISTRIBUTION—All ages are those obtaining at date of Primary Notification.

DEATHS—All the deaths removed from Register have not actually occurred during 1949.

TABLE IV.—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st December, 1949.

Year of Birth	YEAR OF IMMUNISATION																	Totals in Year of Birth	Age at 31-12-48 Years	Totals in Age Groups
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Before 1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Before 1947	1947	1948	1949			
Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1949																	85	85	0—1	2,489
48																72	546	618	1—2	
47															12	510	113	635	2—3	
46													5	—	389	111	60	565	3—4	
45												5	371	—	102	26	82	586	4—5	
44											7	432	167	10	20	24	43	703	5—6	7,297
43										6	353	179	59	29	15	26	60	727	6—7	
42									18	335	159	53	44	65	36	19	14	743	7—8	
41								5	207	157	49	33	23	98	54	6	1	633	8—9	
1940							8	143	199	101	55	30	31	102	70	—	5	744	9—10	
39					2	3	44	122	146	95	61	31	14	120	57	3	—	698	10—11	7,297
38				2	30	15	34	118	192	136	51	18	28	137	52	2	5	820	11—12	
37			1	8	20	66	16	68	190	168	34	25	17	100	40	—	—	753	12—13	
36		5	8	20	23	67	17	150	195	103	39	22	10	76	33	1	—	769	13—14	
35	—	7	2	15	17	67	16	243	127	81	24	28	10	37	32	1	—	707	14—15	
TOTALS	—	12	11	45	92	218	135	849	1,274	1,182	832	856	779	774	912	801	1,014	9,786	—	9,786

NOTE.—Columns 6 and 14. These figures relate to children whose parents stated at surveys held in 1940 and 1947, that “the children had already been immunised.”

TABLE V.—VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1891.

YEARS	POPULATION (R - G's Mid. Year Est.)	RATES PER 1000 EST. POPULATION								Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 Live Births)		Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1000 Live and Still Births)
		LIVE BIRTH		STILL BIRTH		CRUDE DEATH		PHTHISIS DEATHS				
		Oldbury	E. & W.	Oldbury	E.&W.	Oldbury	E.&W.	No.	Rate	Oldbury	E.&W.	
1891 - 1895	21,331	40·82	30·5			21·33	18·7	89	·8344	201·8	151	
1896 - 1900	25,375	37·82	29·3			16·80	17·7	94	·7411	216·5	156	
1901 - 1905	25,798	36·28	28·2			17·45	16·0	77	·5969	175·0	138	
1906—1910	28,580	35·75	26·3			17·04	14·7	118	·8257	147·1	117	
1911—1915	33,856	30·12	23·6			15·47	14·3	115	·6793	137·6	110	
1916—1920	38,277	23·47	20·1			12·77	14·4	162	·8464	104·1	90	
1921	37,700	26·4	22·4			11·5	12·1	31	·8222	101·0	83	7·04
2	38,390	24·8	20·6			11·6	12·9	31	·8074	69·0	77	3·15
3	39,970	23·5	19·7			11·1	11·6	21	·5388	78·0	69	3·27
4	40,050	21·9	18·8			9·5	12·2	30	·7490	68·0	75	4·56
5	40,740	22·1	18·3			10·8	12·2	34	·8344	70·0	75	4·43
6	42,080	20·4	17·8			9·7	11·6	27	·6415	55·8	70	1·16
7	43,120	19·4	16·7			11·2	12·3	22	·5102	88·4	69	2·38
8	33,760	21·7	16·7			11·1	11·7	29	·8589	67·8	65	3·64
9	34,190	21·7	16·3			12·6	13·4	19	·5557	99·7	74	4·04
1930	35,000	21·5	16·3	0·83	0·69	10·8	11·4	36	1·0285	43·9	60	7·80
1	36,370	20·8	15·8	0·52	0·67	11·1	12·3	21	·5773	68·6	66	3·86
2	37,660	19·4	15·3	0·52	0·66	10·1	12·0	21	·5576	91·5	65	7·87
3	39,560	17·4	14·4	0·63	0·62	10·5	12·3	23	·5813	89·7	64	2·83
4	40,720	19·2	14·8	0·93	0·62	10·4	11·8	29	·7121	64·0	59	2·43
5	41,900	18·9	14·7	0·83	0·62	9·7	11·7	31	·7398	65·6	57	2·40
6	42,990	19·6	14·8	0·81	0·61	10·28	12·1	35	·8141	55·6	59	0·00
7	44,450	18·94	14·9	1·12	0·60	11·09	12·4	25	·5624	65·32	58	2·24
8	45,450	19·88	15·1	0·79	0·60	10·42	11·6	30	·6600	56·41	53	3·19
9	47,000	18·51	15·0	0·74	0·59	9·96	12·1	28	·5956	64·59	50	3·31
1940	48,700	18·74	14·6	0·76	0·55	11·17	14·3	39	·8008	49·34	55	4·20
1	49,390	16·94	14·2	0·58	0·51	9·98	12·9	30	·6074	70·47	59	1·15
2	49,530	19·97	15·8	0·76	0·54	9·63	11·6	34	·6864	46·51	49	2·92
3	50,100	21·89	16·5	0·79	0·51	9·84	12·1	42	·8382	41·02	49	1·84
4	50,220	21·42	17·6	0·65	0·50	8·86	11·6	26	·5176	37·18	46	2·70
5	50,040	20·22	16·1	0·47	0·46	9·03	11·4	26	·5194	33·59	46	1·93
6	51,890	19·32	19·1	0·52	0·53	9·55	11·5	38	·7322	35·89	43	0·00
7	52,510	19·97	20·5	0·55	0·50	9·54	12·0	27	·5141	36·22	41	2·78
8	53,350	17·22	17·9	0·24	0·42	8·90	10·8	15	·2811	41·34	34	2·14
1949	53,380	16·46	16·7	0·21	0·39	10·02	11·7	28	·5245	34·12	32	2·23

I

Borough of Oldbury.

Annual Report

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

AND

Cleansing Superintendent

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

E. HARROLD, F.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1949, and trust that it will make interesting reading and convey some knowledge of achievements during the year:

Housing and Overcrowding.

There is still a great housing need in the Borough and whilst it is not possible to give accurate figures without a complete survey being undertaken, it is known that approximately 2,200 overcrowded families and sub-tenants are still in need of re-housing accommodation.

The number of new houses erected during the year was 139, a slight improvement on the year 1948 when 107 were erected. Many difficulties have been met with by the Housing Committee in its desire to press forward more rapidly with the erection of new houses, principally the shortage of labour and certain building materials, together with the acquisition and development of suitable sites which have become very scarce in the Borough. Provision of new houses is still totally inadequate and it is therefore impossible to tackle the most pressing need of the District, that is the demolition of houses which cannot be economically repaired and made completely fit for habitation.

Building Licences.

The number of Building Licences for house repairs issued by this Department was 2 as against 199 in the previous year. This was due to the relaxation of restrictions whereby licences for work costing less than £100 was no longer necessary. The previous limit of expenditure without a licence was £10.

Housing Act, 1936.

Repairs

We have not as yet recommended the operation of Section 9 because of the necessity for conserving manpower and materials,

Demolition Orders—Section II.

Because of the acute shortage of houses operations have been restricted to dangerous and dilapidated houses with the following results:—

Number of unfit houses represented	...	...	7
Number of houses in respect of which			
Demolition Orders were made	...	...	7
Number of houses demolished	...	...	3

Clearance Areas

Again the housing shortage has made it impossible to resume slum clearance operations, and therefore the problem remains one of paramount importance. The areas which were due to be dealt with in September, 1939 have further deteriorated and it is unfortunate that people are compelled to live in such unhealthy environments.

Overcrowding

Table X gives statistics under this heading and I am pleased to report the helpful co-operation which exists between the Health and Housing Committees in matters connected with the re-housing of overcrowded families.

Housing Act, 1949

The scheme of improvement grants provided for under the above Act appears to be uninviting to property owners, as not a single application has yet been received.

Sanitary Accommodation.

This is recorded in Table III.

Water Supply.

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company supplies the whole of the Borough which is divided into three zones for the purpose. Zone 1 is supplied from deep wells and boreholes only and Zones 2 and 3 from boreholes and surface catchment areas combined. All water is chlorinated but not softened.

Fourteen samples were submitted to the County Laboratories for bacteriological examination and twelve for chemical analysis.

There are no drinking water wells in use in the Borough.

Rivers and Streams.

There is still an appreciable amount of contamination of brook courses from manufacturing establishments and also from sewers during abnormal rainfall. Officers of the Department work in liaison with the Inspector of the Tame and Rea Rivers Pollution Authority in this matter.

There is no river passing through the District.

The stagnancy of two sections of canals was also investigated and dealt with, resulting in dredging and removal of heavy vegetable growth, dead animals and other forms of pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.

One Sewage Disposal Works serves the whole of the Borough.

The average dry weather flow is 2,100,000 gallons. Three times this volume can be treated, but volumes in excess of this are dealt with in storm settling tanks.

The number of houses without a proper drainage system connected to a public sewer is 14.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply

There were two dairy farms registered in the Borough up to the 1st October, 1949 when control of such premises became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. All dairies (other than dairy farms) have been inspected since the operation of the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and alterations and improvements are in progress to bring the dairies up to the standards required by the Regulations.

The exact percentage of milk consumed in the Borough which has been subjected to heat treatment is not known but it is estimated to be at least 90% or over. Loose milk is almost conspicuous by its absence in the streets on retail sale and the bottle has almost completely ousted its bigger relative, the hand-can. This, in my opinion, is a distinct improvement and, allied with pasteurisation and/or sterilisation on registered and licensed premises, will do much to improve the distribution of clean and safe milk.

There are two licensed pasteurising plants in the Borough and a total of thirty samples were taken from the two plants during the year. All these samples complied with the official Methylene Blue and Phosphate Tests.

The number of registered dairies in the Borough at the end of the year was 12. This number decreases annually and it would appear that the larger dairy firms are gradually ousting the smaller dairymen.

70 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and of these 64 were satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory. Of the latter six samples, five were of milk produced at a farm in Shrop-

shire and sampled on arrival at a dairy in the District, and the other was a sample of tuberculin tested milk which had, contrary to the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, been heat treated by a dairyman in the Borough. 25 washed milk bottles were taken for cleanliness tests and 23 were satisfactory. Four samples of milk taken for Tubercle Test were all negative.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The number of licences issued during the year under these and the preceding Regulations were as follows:—

(a) Bottling Establishments (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	...	2
(b) Pasteurisers	... ..	2
(c) Retailers (Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) 6; Accredited 2; Pasteurised 18; Tuberculin Tested 12)	...	38

Meat and Other Foods

All animals reported as having been slaughtered in the Area have been inspected by a qualified Meat and Foods Inspector. For this purpose the carcasses and organs of 169 pigs killed on private premises were examined.

During the year a pig slaughtered on private premises for the owner's consumption was found to be infected with Generalised Tuberculosis. The owner of the carcass refused, despite all persuasion, to surrender it for destruction. He did surrender the head and pluck after some discussion but the remainder had unfortunately, to be left in his possession. When it is realised that even today there is no legal provision to forbid the giving away of some portion of such a pig to friends it can readily be appreciated that there is always a risk of spreading this disease, and we appear to be powerless to stop any such occurrence unless and until some legislation is introduced.

There is no private slaughterhouse in use in the Area at present.

During the year the premises of three major sausage and meat product, etc., producers in the Area were inspected and in each case the manufacturing premises are to be demolished and completely new premises erected to approved designs. Work has already commenced on one and will shortly commence, it is hoped, at the other two premises.

Much progress has been made during the year in the provision of adequate washing facilities to food premises, including provision of sinks or wash-basins and running hot and cold water supplies thereto. Little difficulty is now experienced in securing a running supply of hot water in contrast to the immediate post-war period when arguments against providing such an amenity were numerous.

Table VIII gives a detailed list of diseased and unsound foods condemned and destroyed during the year, or salvaged under the Salvaged Goods Order, 1948.

11 tons, 9 cwts. of cheese, lying at a Ministry of Food Depot, were condemned in October, 1949. This represents approximately one month's ration for the whole of the Borough's inhabitants. The cheese was disposed of for animal feeding.

Ice Cream

The number of manufacturers registered at the end of the year was 4 (2 complete cold mix and 2 pasteurising mix) and retailers numbered 35.

35 samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. Three samples had a low fat content, 21 samples fell into Ministry of Health Provisional Grades 1 and 2 (Methylene Blue Test) and 7 into Provisional Grades 3 and 4.

It is pleasing to report that, with one exception only, the standard of ice cream as sold in the Borough shows an upward trend and the ice cream now sold is far superior in quality, both as to cleanliness and chemical composition, to the year or so immediately following the late War. No doubt this is due to the effect of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations and the willing co-operation of the trade in general.

One manufacturer only in the District retails ice-cream on the streets and he has recently purchased a new vehicle which is a vast improvement on his former one.

Food and Drugs Act

The number of samples taken for analysis (not including ice cream samples) was 114 of which 112 were certified genuine. Of the two informal adulterated samples one sample of Glauber's Salts exhibited considerable efflorescence, the loss on drying at 100° C. being 21.8% whereas British Pharmacopoeia 1948 requires a loss of not less than 53.7%. This meant that a normal dose of the sample would contain considerably more of the active constituent than intended. It was found that the stock was old and a formal follow-up sample taken at the beginning of 1950 was genuine. The remaining informal sample of Medicinal Liquid Paraffin was certified to be an impure grade of light liquid or spray paraffin and unfit for medicinal purposes. A formal follow-up sample of this Liquid Paraffin was similarly adulterated but no proceedings were possible as the bottling firm could not be traced. The firm had, however, apparently been prosecuted by another Authority in

December, 1948 and fined for an identical offence. The retailer was considered blameless and was not proceeded against.

Six samples of cakes and cooking fat (not included above) were taken for contamination by an offensive smelling gas prevalent in the atmosphere of the District at the time and were found heavily contaminated.

Factories.

The number of factories on the Register at the end of the year was 229

The number of factories inspected was 39 and the number of visits 118.

Sanitary defects found numbered 21 and all were remedied.

Co-operation with H.M. Inspector of Factories for the Area has resulted in a number of sanitary improvements.

Public Cleansing.

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse.

Table I is complete with statistics relating to this service and shows that the net cost for the year was £11,660, an increase of £667 over the previous year.

The average period between collections of house refuse was fourteen days during the summer and autumn, but longer still during part of winter and early spring. Recruitment of a sufficient number of suitable employees has been very difficult and until this problem is solved these difficulties will remain. The Health Committee, however, is determined to improve the Service in the future and changes have been approved which, it is hoped, will result in considerable improvements during 1950.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

The salvage of waste materials continued during the year, the number of tons collected being 1,328, including 419 tons of waste paper, 116 tons of ferrous scrap and 763 tons of waste food.

Compulsory Orders have now been withdrawn in respect of all items of salvage except waste food, and although we are continuing the collection of waste paper by special lorries and other materials at the Disposal Tip, this service has been discontinued on the dustmen's rounds because of its effect on the refuse collection service.

Statistics for 1949 and an Annual Summary for ten years commencing January 1st, 1940 are appended.

RECORD OF MONTHLY COLLECTIONS AND SALES OF SALVAGE MATERIALS FOR THE YEAR 1949 AND SUMMARY FOR TEN YEARS FROM 1st JANUARY, 1940 to 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

	Waste Paper	Heavy and Light Iron	Destructor Scrap	Non-Ferrous Metals	Textiles	Bones	Glass Cullet	Rubber	Kitchen Waste	
1949	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	£ s. d.
January ...	43 18	—	2 15	—	1 2	0 13	—	—	66 7	633 0 0
February ...	44 12	6 12	8 2	—	1 8	0 7	1 8	—	64 13	667 0 0
March ...	36 17	17 16	—	0 10	1 6	0 4	—	—	71 10	699 10 0
April ...	41 15	3 5	—	—	—	0 9	3 1	—	63 6	598 10 0
May ...	43 8	—	—	—	2 12	0 7	2 0	—	72 12	696 0 0
June ...	30 8	30 2	5 11	0 16	—	0 6	—	—	66 7	688 0 0
July ...	24 13	—	—	—	1 14	0 7	1 8	—	66 11	530 0 0
August ...	36 18	15 10	—	—	—	0 6	—	—	51 3	561 0 0
September ...	27 10	5 11	6 7	—	2 11	0 10	1 8	—	62 3	576 10 0
October ...	34 13	5 4	—	0 16	0 19	0 10	—	—	60 2	551 0 0
November ..	27 16	4 5	4 17	—	—	0 10	—	—	57 14	463 10 0
December ...	26 11	—	—	—	0 19	0 13	1 5	—	60 18	463 0 0
	418 19	88 5	27 12	2 2	12 11	5 2	10 10	—	763 6	7127 0 0

80

SUMMARY.

	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	T. c.	£ s. d.
1940 ...	308 1	236 19	63 10	7 5	13 11	11 14	40 9	—	2 8	3007 13 0
1941 ...	434 4	99 12	84 12	4 5	7 11	11 13	71 6	—	348 2	3769 16 0
1942 ...	556 1	267 2	99 3	6 0	20 9	15 13	90 6	49 14	652 2	6981 8 0
1943 ...	396 1	320 18	201 17	4 8	28 14	23 8	104 9	10 6	746 0	7232 1 0
1944 ...	399 1	105 8	197 17	2 16	26 19	21 18	76 19	5 15	664 8	6195 0 0
1945 ...	355 8	62 5	129 6	3 2	24 11	13 16	54 6	—	545 18	5100 0 0
1946 ...	338 13	234 1	92 0	3 19	19 1	9 14	27 18	—	555 4	5793 0 0
1947 ...	330 16	40 6	65 17	3 12½	8 10	5 10	8 3	—	629 5	5658 0 0
1948 ...	454 16	64 16	23 9	2 14	18 16	6 18	8 14	—	678 4	7182 0 0
1949 ...	418 19	88 5	27 12	2 2	12 11	5 2	10 10	—	763 6	7127 0 0
	3990 0	1519 12	985 3	40 3½	180 13	125 6	493 0	65 15	5584 17	58045 18 0

Total Weight Collected (in tons)—12,984. Total Income from Sales—£58,045 18s. od.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.

The number of official smoke observations recorded was 15 and only 4 nuisances under the Byelaws were observed. In the case of one of our long-established factories which has given us a lot of trouble during the war and post-war periods, an experiment is being carried out with coal tar fuel firing as a substitute for solid fuel on the recommendation of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, and we are hopeful that the smoke nuisance will be considerably abated thereby.

Several nuisances caused by foul smells from fertiliser works, a Knacker's yard and a chemical works were the subject of complaints during the year, as were also nuisances caused by dust escaping from various manufacturing processes, including quarrying, enamel spraying, etc.

With regard to the nuisance from foul smells arising from a local chemical works, this persisted during the last four months of the year to such an extent that numerous petitions and complaints were received from residents and from outside Authorities, including Smethwick, West Bromwich, Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield, Bilston, Wednesbury and Halesowen. A great amount of time was devoted to the tracing of this foul nuisance and the investigation of the many complaints received. The foul odour resembles the smell of tom cats and this is how it was generally described. There were many disturbing features and this Authority reported the matter to the Ministry of Health because of their responsibility under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1906. The effects of this foul odour were, at times, unbearable, and in my long experience in the Department I cannot recall a situation where so many of our residents suffered inconvenience and discomfort for so long. The nuisance is primarily one for the Alkali Works Inspectors to deal with, but it has been endured long enough and the residents are entitled to a much purer atmosphere than that which now prevails in the Langley District and which rapidly spreads to other areas.

Verminous Houses.

All cases of vermin infestation discovered during the year were dealt with at once, involving the disinfestation of 40 houses. Spraying with liquid insecticide or treatment by smoke generators is carried out in all cases of infestation by bugs. " Vermicine " liquid insecticide, incorporating 5% D.D.T. has given good results, but two treatments are necessary. This work is carried out by the Staff of this Department, no contractor being engaged.

Tenants of houses where disinfestation is carried out are given instructions on measures necessary to prevent re-infestation and bad cases are kept under regular observation.

Rodent Control.

The number of rats and mice infestations dealt with during the year at business premises, private dwelling houses and Corporation properties (including Municipal tips, piggeries, etc.) was 99, 69 and 11 respectively.

The recommended methods of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are employed with continuing satisfactory results. The introduction and use of the poison Alphanapthyl-thiourea ("Antu") as a general Ministry-recommended poison against the brown rat has proved a success and it has been used with great effect in the Borough.

It is particularly gratifying to record that the infestation of sewers in this, a heavily industrial Borough, is relatively small and almost negligible.

In addition to normal rodent control measures, several foxes were also killed.

Swimming Baths.

There is one public swimming bath in the Borough. South Staffs water is used, being softened, chlorinated and aerated beforehand. Pressure filters are in use, capacity is 90,000 gallons and the circulating period is three hours.

Four samples of the bath water were taken during the year, three of which were satisfactory, the unsatisfactory one being taken in June at the height of the season when the bath was and had been somewhat overloaded.

Oldbury Corporation Act, 1949.

The principal sanitary provisions of this Act are as follows:—

Section 62—The sale of verminous articles is prohibited.

Section 63—Hairdressers and barbers and their premises to be registered and provision made to apply Byelaws.

Section 65—Power to enforce the discontinuance of offensive trades in certain circumstances.

Section 68—Animals unfit for food not to be slaughtered before notification to an authorised Officer of the Local Authority.

Section 69—Registration of food hawkers and their premises.

Section 71—Steam and waste gas not to be ejected to the annoyance of the public.

Section 72—Effective silencers to be provided to stationary combustion engines.

Section 73—A noise nuisance may be dealt with as a Statutory Nuisance.

Staff.

The credit for this Report is due to the Staff who have so loyally and ably carried out their work and have thus made possible the material contained therein.

The only changes occurring during the year were on the Clerical side. Mr. J. S. Knight (Chief Clerk left to take up a private appointment and Mr. T. K. Boston obtained a position in the Department of the Medical Officer of Health. They were both very efficient and difficult to replace. Also Mr. J. D. Forsbrook (Junior Clerk) was called up for National Service during the year. Mr. W. H. Poultney was appointed Chief Clerk and two Junior Clerks (Messrs. F. W. Hackett and J. A. Jeavons) were also appointed.

Conclusion.

I am again indebted to the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and other Chief Officers for their help and advice, and to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee I express my sincere thanks for their unfailing confidence and administrative support which in great measure has made possible much of the work recorded here.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

E. HAROLD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and
Cleansing Superintendent.

Sanitary Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Oldbury.

16th June, 1950.

TABLE I.

House and Trade Refuse.

Table showing costs for the year ended 31st March, 1949.

Item	Particulars.	I. Collection, with Depreciation or Loan Charges included or excluded.		II. Disposal, with Depreciation or Loan Charges included or excluded.		III. Total, with Depreciation or Loan Charges included or excluded.	
		Included	Excluded	Included	Excluded	Included	Excluded
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
A	REVENUE ACCOUNT Gross Expenditure ...	£11,622	£10,898	£1,235	£1,127	£12,857	£12,025
B	Gross Income ...	220	220	145	145	365	365
C	Net Cost ...	£11,402	£10,678	£1,090	£982	£12,492	£11,660
D	UNIT COSTS Gross Expenditure per ton ..	s. d. 16 10	s. d. 15 9	s. d. 1 9	s. d. 1 7	s. d. 18 7	s. d. 17 4
E	Gross Income per ton ...	4	4	3	3	7	7
F	Net Cost per ton	16 6	15 5	1 6	1 4	18 0	16 9
G	Net cost per 1,000 population ...	£ s. d. 215 0 0	£ s. d. 201 10 0	£ s. d. 20 10 0	£ s. d. 18 10 0	£ s. d. 235 10 0	£ s. d. 220 0 0
H	Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which trade refuse is collected	£ s. d. 814 0 0	£ s. d. 762 0 0	£ s. d. 78 0 0	£ s. d. 70 0 0	£ s. d. 892 0 0	£ s. d. 832 0 0
Net cost per resident per annum (Collection and Disposal) ...						4s 8d	
" " " " week " " "						1d	

TABLE II.
WATER SUPPLY.

				Number of Dwelling	
				Houses	Population
Water supplied direct to houses	...			14,201	52,871 (approx.)
Water supplied from mains to stand pipes or taps in yards serving two or more houses	...	...	...	133 (approx.)	479 (approx.)
Water supplied from communal stand pipes Serving particular parts of the district				Nil	Nil
Water supplied from private supplies (e.g. wells, springs, etc.)	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

TABLE III.
SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Number of dwellings connected to a public sewer	...	14,320
Estimated population served	...	53,300
Number of houses with pail closets	...	12
Number of houses with cess pits, etc.	...	2
Number of houses with private installation	...	Nil

TABLE IV.

**Summary of defects remedied, improvements effected and
nuisances abated under the Housing, Public Health
and O.U.D.C. Acts during the year 1949.**

Houses cleansed and/or repaired under Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	173
Houses provided with improved ventilation and existing windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	17
Existing pantries provided with external ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	2
Staircases repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	17
New floors provided	...	...	...	...	...	13
Firegrates repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	47
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
Water supply—additional taps provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
—burst water pipes repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	14
Foul cellars cleansed and defects in drains remedied	...	...	...	...	...	6

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	...	...	80
Drains provided with efficient traps	...	...	4
New drains and/or inspection chambers provided (excluding new houses)	...	...	12
Inspection chambers repaired or new covers provided	...	...	7
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	33
Soil and ventilating pipes improved or new provided	...	...	17
Additional water closets provided	...	...	10
Water closets reconstructed	...	...	3
Water closets repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	113
Water closets provided with new pedestals	...	...	38
Water closets provided with intervening ventilated space	...	...	1
Foul water closet basins and traps cleansed	...	...	9
Defective water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	25
Privies converted into fresh-water closets	...	...	2
Houses provided with suitable coal storage	...	...	1
Defective spouting repaired or disconnected or new spouting provided	...	...	166
Insanitary rainwater cisterns disconnected and sealed	...	...	2
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	121
House roofs stripped and re-roofed	...	...	1
Dangerous chimneys rebuilt	...	...	15
Courts, back-yards or approaches paved or repaired	...	...	9
Wash-houses repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	50
Walls rendered externally	...	...	5
Gable walls weatherproofed	...	...	17
Boundary walls rebuilt	...	...	1
New earth retaining walls erected	...	...	1
Defective floors repaired	...	...	7
Washing boilers provided	...	...	6
New windows provided	...	...	12
Windows—woodwork repaired	...	...	21
New doors provided	...	...	9
Bakehouses cleansed, repaired or reconditioned	...	...	5
Cafés and restaurants cleansed and repaired	...	...	1
Food shops cleansed and repaired	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	3
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	2
Horse stables made fit	...	...	2
Occupation of sheds—cases terminated	...	...	1
Means of access provided to premises for purposes of refuse removal	...	...	2
Houses provided with sanitary dustbins	...	...	648
Miscellaneous	...	...	108

TABLE V.

Summary of Inspections and Revisits during the year 1949.

	Inspections	Re-Visits
Infectious Disease Prevention	188	112
Houses and Premises	454	1,348
Overcrowding	125	13
Water Closets and Drains	157	313
Meat and other Foods Inspection	218	6
Food Premises (excluding Ice Cream)	224	161
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	95	9
Keeping of Animals and/or Poultry	59	34
Factories	39	79
Dirty and/or Verminous Houses and Premises ...	41	26
Canal Boats	2	1
Offensive Accumulations	2	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds (including temporary buildings)	1	—
Refuse Removal and Disposal	40	—
Refuse Disposal Tips	333	1
Rats and Mice Nuisances	243	777
Rent Acts	3	1
Salvage	700	—
Food and Drugs Sampling	107	—
Dustbins	251	156
Building Licences	2	1
Water Supplies and Samples	20	—
Offensive Trades	20	1
Smoke Nuisances and Observations	23	10
Paving of Courts, Yards and Passages	3	3
Ice Cream Premises—manufacture and/or sale ...	29	42
Foul Cellars	55	33
Suspected cases of Food Poisoning	3	7
House Measurement under Housing Act, 1936 ...	18	—
Derelict Buildings	—	1
Obstructed and Foul Water Courses	1	—
Privy Middens (Conversions into Water Closets) ...	—	1
Streams and Canals	4	2
Schools (including School Meals Service)	35	—
Alkali Works—Nuisances	1	—
Market	26	—
Legal Proceedings	4	—
Miscellaneous	738	79
Number of Interviews	702	

TABLE VI.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 AND
CANAL BOAT REGULATIONS.**

Statistical supplement to the Annual Report for the year 1949.

Number of canal boats on register	...	...	...	20
Number of canal boats registered during the year	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	2*
Total number for which the cabins were registered	...	...	...	3
Total number occupying the cabins	...	...	...	—

*Two boats were inspected for the purpose of Registration. One required repairs and has not yet been registered.

TABLE VII.

Summary of Notices served during the year 1949.

Public Health Act, 1936:—				Preliminary	Statutory
Nuisance Properties	...	...	...	332	173
Paving of Yards	...	...	...	2	6
Proposed work of Maintenance on Sewers				1	—
Removal of Noxious Matter	...	...	...	—	1
Defective Drains	...	...	...	18	11
Repair of Defective Water Closets			...	8	4
Insufficient Water Closet Accommodation				1	—
Replacement of Earth Closets	...	...	...	—	1
Provision of Dustbins	...	...	...	—	93
O.U.D.C. Act—Defective Drains	...	...	...	—	28
Housing Act, 1936—Abatement of Overcrowding				—	2
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	4	2
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	9	9
Totals				375	330

TABLE VIII.

Summary of diseased and unsound foods condemned and destroyed, returned to the Ministry of Food (Salvage Division) or disposed of under Salvaged Goods Order, 1948.

					Weight			
					tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs. ' zs
<i>Meat:—</i>								
Carcasses and organs of 3 pigs	...	...	...	...	6	2	22	0
14 sets pigs' intestines	...	...	...	...	2	0	12	0
5 pigs' plucks	...	...	...	...		1	15	0
2 sets pigs' lungs	...	...	...	...			6	0
2 pigs' livers	...	...	...	...			11	0
15 pigs' heads	...	...	...	...	2	0	24	0
Beef	...	...	...	...	1	1	12	12
Pork	...	...	...	...		1	0	0
Lambs' livers (frozen—imported)	...	...	...	...			10	0
4 pigs' kidneys	...	...	...	...			1	0
<i>Miscellaneous Foods:—</i>								
Tinned or Bottled Vegetables (521 tins or bottles)	...	...	...	...	5	3	18	12
Tinned Meat (130 tins)	...	...	...	...	1	2	17	1
Tinned Milk (436 tins)	...	...	...	...	3	2	27	14
Tinned Fish or Fish Paste (357 tins)	...	...	...	...		3	26	2
Tinned Jam, Syrup or Marmalade (29 tins)	...	...	...	...		1	14	6
Tinned Soup (31 tins)	...	...	...	...		1	0	8
Tinned or Bottled Fruit or Fruit Juice (169 tins or bottles)	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	4
Tinned Sausage (4 tins)	...	...	...	...			7	0
Tinned Stew (2 tins)	...	...	...	...			3	12
Tinned Milk Puddings (6 tins)	...	...	...	...			6	0
Butter	...	...	...	...			7	7
Cheese	...	...	...	...	11	11	3	5
Margarine	...	...	...	...			25	0
Prepacked Suet (3 packets)	...	...	...	...			1	8
Pickles and Sauces (24 bottles)	...	...	...	...			11	15
Gravy Browning (1 bottle)	...	...	...	...				9
Pepper	...	...	...	...			12	0
Sausages (loose)	...	...	...	...		3	6	0
Meat Pies (157)	...	...	...	...		1	11	4
Salad Cream (5 bottles)	...	...	...	...			2	3
Flour	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	0
Sponge Puddings (190 packets)	...	...	...	...		1	7	10
Oatmeal	...	...	...	...		2	12	0

Groats	...	...	...	...	20	0
Dried Milk	...	...	...	...	10	0
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	2	0
Preserved Ginger (1 jar)	...	...	...	...	12	8
Dried Beans	...	...	...	...	3	0
Cereals (2 packets)	...	...	...	...	2	12
Tea (6 packets)	...	...	...	...	1	8
Coffee Essence (2 bottles)	...	...	...	...		6
Bournvita (1 tin)	...	...	...	...		4
Nescafe (1 tin)	...	...	...	...		4
Olive Oil (2 bottles)	...	...	...	...		13
Total					13	7
					2	26
					6	

1 Bottle Sterilised Milk.

TABLE IX.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcasses or Organs Inspected and Condemned.

Number of pigs killed	...	...	...	...	169
Number of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	169
1. <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3.5%
2. <i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	14.7%

TABLE X.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	102
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	4
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	33

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	584
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (excluding re-visits)	483
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	7
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (excluding those in (3) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	577

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	257
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3.—Action under Statutory powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	192
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	151
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	2
(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a) Number of alleged cases of overcrowding investigated during the year	114
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	38
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	162
(iii) Number of persons actually re-housed	93

TABLE XI.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Infectious Diseases, etc.

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease ...	...	300
Houses disinfected after notifiable disease by Local Authority ...	...	25

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.

Number observed ...	...	1
Number dealt with as insanitary ...	...	1

Sanitary Conveniences.

Number of Cesspools in use at end of year ...	...	3
Number of earth or pail closets in use at end of year ...	...	12

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Number of houses from which refuse was removed ...	...	14,334
Number of dustbins cleansed periodically ...	...	14,334
Estimated number tons of house refuse collected ...	...	13,803
Number of dustbins provided ...	...	588
Expenditure on purchases ...	...	£788
Income from Sales ...	...	£893

Salvage of Waste Materials.

Weight collected in tons:—

Waste Paper ...	...	420
Textiles ...	...	12
Ferrous Scrap ...	...	116
Best Metals ...	...	2
Glass ...	...	10
Bones	5
Waste Food	763
		<hr/> 1,328 <hr/>

Offensive Trades.

Number under observation	4
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Water Supply.

All houses supplied from South Staffordshire Water Works.

Number of samples of water sent for Bacteriological Examination	14
Number of samples of water sent for Chemical Analysis...	...	12
Number of samples found to be satisfactory bacteriologically ...	...	12

Number of samples found to be satisfactory chemically	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of samples found to be unsatisfactory bacteriologically	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of samples found to be unsatisfactory chemically							1

Meat Inspection.

Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported	...	...	...	...	...	129
Number of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	...	169

Milk.

Number of Registered Dairies (excluding producers) in the Area	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Registered Dairy Farms in the Area	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Registered Retailers (including producers) retailing milk in the Area	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of Licences issued under Milk (Special Designations) Orders:—						

	Tuberculin Tested				Tuberculin			
	(Pasteurised)		Pasteurised		Accredited		Tested	
Bottlers	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2
Retailers	...	6	...	18	...	2	...	12
Producers	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Pasteurisers	...	—	...	2	...	—	...	—
Approximate number of milking cows in the area							...	27

Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Number of samples taken for chemical analysis (excluding Ice Cream)	...	...	...	...	114
Number of samples certified genuine	...	...	...	...	112
Number of samples adulterated	...	...	...	...	2
Number of samples of Ice Cream taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	35
Number of samples certified as					
(a) Satisfactory	(i) Bacteriologically	...	...	...	28
	(ii) Chemically	...	...	...	32
(b) Unsatisfactory	(i) Bacteriologically	...	...	...	7
	(ii) Chemically	...	...	...	3
Number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological tests					70
Number of samples certified as (a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	64
	(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	6

Factories Act, 1937.

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	27
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	27

Building Licences.

Number of Building Licences issued for repairs	2
------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Number of premises treated during the year:—

(a) Business Premises (Shops, Factories, etc.)	...	...	...	...	99
(b) Private Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	69
(c) Corporation properties (excluding Corporation houses)	...	...	...	...	11
Number of dead rats found	...	...	...	...	171
Number of dead mice found	...	...	...	...	62
Number of hours spent by rodent operative on such treatments	...	...	...	...	723
Number of premises test-baited during the year (not included above):—					
(a) Business Premises (Shops, Factories, etc.)	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Private Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	37
(c) Corporation properties (excluding Corporation houses)	...	...	...	...	9
Number of hours spent by rodent operative on such test-baiting	...	...	...	...	95

Other Matters.

Verminous houses—cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	40
Nuisances arising from domestic animals and/or poultry	...	...	...	...	10
Visits in connection with erection of pig-sties	...	...	...	...	32

